

I. Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] In all of the exemplary embodiments, a connecting device 1 according to the invention comprises a housing part 2 with a receiving opening 4, which is open on one side, for the axial insertion of an end of a pipeline 6, and of a clamping ring 8, which is arranged in the housing part 2 or in the receiving opening 4 and is intended for locking the pipeline 6, which is inserted axially, i.e. in the direction of a plug-in axis 10, in place. In this case, the connecting device 1 permits a simple and rapid installation of the pipeline 6, which consists in particular of plastic, by simple insertion into the housing part 2 without other installation steps. The clamping ring 8 sits in a widened portion of the receiving opening 4 in such a manner that it surrounds the receiving opening 4 and therefore the inserted pipeline 6. At one point of its circumference, the clamping ring 8 has a slot which passes axially and radially through it, i.e. an interruption in its circumferential profile, as a result of which it can be radially elastically widened and/or constricted. In its inner circumferential region, the clamping ring 8 has – see in this respect in particular the larger illustrations in figs. 12, 14, 16 and 18 – (at least) one radially inwardly protruding, encircling tooth edge 12. The clamping ring 8 furthermore has an outer cone 14 which, in order to lock the pipeline 6 in place, interacts with an inner cone 16 of the housing part 2 in such a manner that, when there is a pull on the pipeline 6 in the release direction (arrow direction 18 in fig. 2), i.e. when there is a movement counter to the insertion direction (arrow 20 in fig. 1), the clamping ring 8 is initially carried along by means of the frictional bearing of its tooth edge 12 until an outer cone 14 comes to rest in the inner cone 16 of the housing part 2. If the pulling continues, a radially inwardly directed force is produced via the cones 14, 16, by

means of which force the clamping ring 8 is to be elastically constricted, so that the tooth edge 12 interacts with the essentially smooth-faced, cylindrical outer circumference of the pipe in a frictional and/or form-fitting manner and the pipe is thus locked in place to prevent it from being pulled out.